

**From:** Downey Magallanes  
**To:** [Newell, Russell](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Zinke dismisses support for monuments as "national campaign" by interest groups  
**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 3:04:54 PM

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No

On Aug 24, 2017, at 2:21 PM, Newell, Russell <[russell\\_newell@ios.doi.gov](mailto:russell_newell@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

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Russell Newell  
Deputy Director of Communications  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 208-6232  
@Interior



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**From:** **POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard** <[politicoemail@politicopro.com](mailto:politicoemail@politicopro.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Aug 24, 2017 at 2:04 PM  
**Subject:** Zinke dismisses support for monuments as 'national campaign' by interest groups  
**To:** [russell\\_newell@ios.doi.gov](mailto:russell_newell@ios.doi.gov)

By Esther Whieldon

08/24/2017 02:01 PM EDT

The Interior Department today said Secretary Ryan Zinke has sent his recommendations on whether to maintain or shrink 22 national monuments to the White House, and it largely dismissed the millions of public comments supporting keeping the sites intact as part of an organized campaign.

"Comments received were overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments and demonstrated a well orchestrated national campaign organized by multiple organizations," the agency said in a [summary](#) describing the review process.

The agency declined to provide any details about what Zinke recommended for the monuments, but he told the Associated Press earlier today that he was seeking to shrink a handful of them. Another report this week said Zinke called for sharply reducing the Bears Ears monument in Utah established by former President Barack Obama.

Zinke's summary of the process appeared sympathetic to the commenters who opposed the monuments, describing their concerns as more accurately representing the public and local business interests. Those comments sought to

"protect traditional multiple use, and those most concerned were often local residents associated with industries such as grazing, timber production, mining, hunting and fishing, and motorized recreation," it said.






interior has said it conducted a thorough review of the comments.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** President Donald Trump will review the recommendations but it is unclear when, or even if, he will take any concrete actions which would be sure to face legal challenges.

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